

ART GAZE

townsville's arts magazine

autumn



RENEW
TOWNSVILLE

URBAN
DK

WEST SIDE
STORY

LOCAL
NEWS

and

FREE ARTS GUIDE



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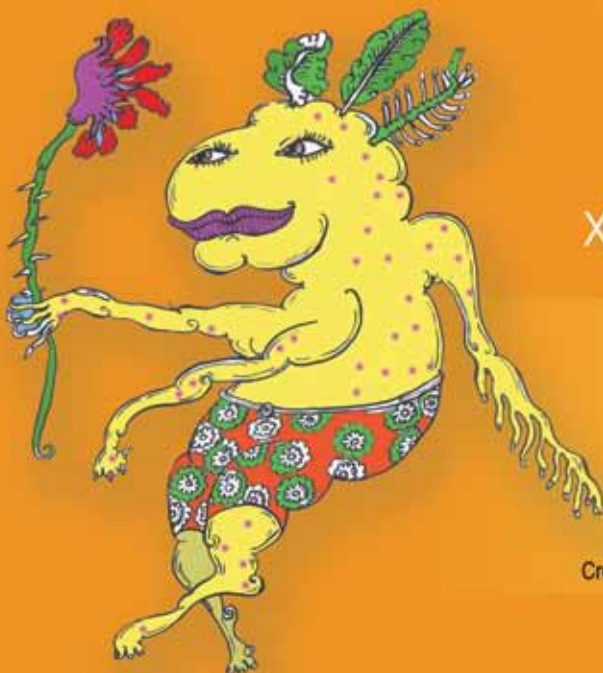


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PERC TUCKER REGIONAL GALLERY · 15 APRIL - 10 JULY 2011



zookini

JENNY ORCHARD

XSTRATA CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Family Open Day: 10am - 2pm Sunday 17 April 2011

Explore the exhibition and join in the free art-making activities.

Mother's Day Monsters: 11am - 1pm Sunday 8 May 2011

Celebrate Mother's Day and create a Zookini monster using colourful clay.

Kablooky Story Book: 11am - 1pm Sunday 22 May 2011

Create your own Zookini creature story book using drawing, collage and printmaking.

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery

Cnr. Denham and Flinders Streets, Townsville QLD 4810

Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm; Sat - Sun 10am - 2pm; Closed Public Holidays

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🌐 www.townsville.qld.gov.au



note from the EDITORIAL TEAM

Welcome to the new and improved
Art Gaze.

We have been working hard over the last few months to develop the magazine to offer readers more. I am sure you will agree that this issue brings more news, reviews, articles and must-see Townsville arts events than ever before, whilst retaining the core focus of *Art Gaze*.

This issue we have increase the number of pages and also the print run and distribution to ensure more locals get the chance to read about our vibrant local arts community.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Townsville City Council Arts Awards on 11 March to celebrate and recognise the quality and diversity within our arts community. For those of you who can't be there, check out our facebook page for the latest news and photos from the night.

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front cover

Renovation at the *Cereal Box*,
photograph by Aaron Ashley



Detail of Space Jam, 2010 RUN Collective aerosol and mixed media on cardboard (Refer pg 8)



Detail of artwork by Lesley Kane, exhibiting at Umbrella Studio until 10 April



West Side Story cast (Refer pg 24)
Detail of photograph by Chrissy Maguire

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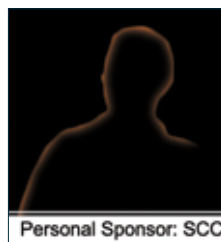
Art Gaze magazine is
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Arts News

Strand Ephemera VI

Applications have now closed for Strand Ephemera VI. Over 60 applications were received by Perc Tucker Regional Gallery. *Art Gaze* looks forward to finding out who will be exhibiting along The Strand, 2–12 September 2011, and will let you know ASAP.



Marion Gaemers, *Journeys*, Strand Ephemera V, Image Courtesy of Perc Tucker Regional Gallery

Townsville City Council 2011 Arts Awards

These awards are being held on 11 March. To be the first to know who has won, who performed and see some photos from the night, check out the *Art Gaze* Facebook page.

Jean-Pierre Voos Theatre Award

There will be a new arts award this year—the Jean-Pierre Voos Theatre Award—as a tribute to Jean-Pierre for his dedication to performing arts and all he has done for the Townsville arts scene.



Ideas to life

Jo Fisher, ex GM of Dancenorth and AFCM, is now an independent producer of performing arts and community engagement projects with her business *Ideas to Life* forging ahead. Her first project will be *Chalk Dust*, a 3D chalk art project in public spaces. For more information call Jo on 0438 952 263 or email joanne@ideastolife.com.au

Renew Townsville

The latest Renew Townsville space to open in Flinders Mall, Cereal Box, opened on Friday 25 February with live music from local musicians, including Elle Graham. Read more about Renew Townsville and Cereal Box on page 6.

Tattoo Art

The second volume of Townsville INK, a photo book that celebrates the tattoo art of locals while raising funds for ACT for Kids, is underway. For those interested in being involved, an information night will be held at The Brewery on 7 March from 6 pm.

50 Years of Cinema

The Townsville Cinema Group celebrates 50 years this year. www.cinemagroup.org.au

Umbrella Touring

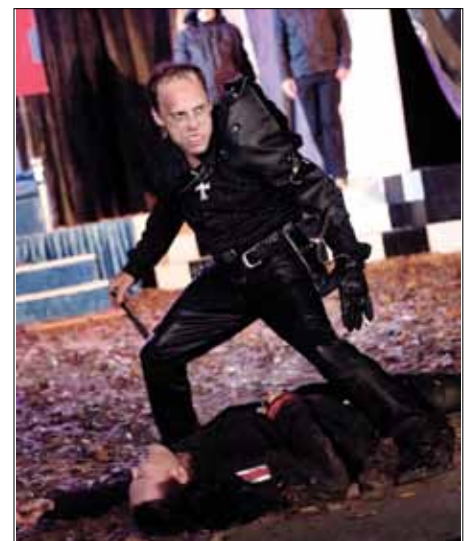
Umbrella Studio's exhibitions *Murris in Ink* and *Compact Prints 2010* have been selected to tour the state with the Queensland Arts Council.



Compact Prints 2010 installed at Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, 24 January – 27 March

New GM at Festival

Sue Hackett recently moved to Townsville to take up the position of General Manager of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music (ACFM). Sue brings considerable arts experience, having worked as a professional musician and in arts administration in Europe and Australia for many years. Prior to her appointment, Sue was General Manager of Pacific Opera.



Brendan O'Connor and James Raggatt in *Richard III*, Photographed by Robin Gauld

Shakespeare Under the Stars

Shakespeare Under the Stars have announced that their 2011 Shakespearean production will be the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, 13–24 September. They are also introducing the first of their *Wizards of Oz* program of classic Australian texts—Louis Nowra's *Cosi*, to be held 26–30 July at the Court Theatre

Local artist collecting plastic bottle tops

Alison McDonald is currently creating a major art work, *Flow*, which will cover the side of Umbrella Studio on 5 June for World Environment Day. She needs more than 20,000 plastic bottle tops to complete the work and is asking people to collect and donate plastic bottle tops at Umbrella Studio.



Flow – Alison's progress so far

Six month opportunity at Studio 2

While a founding member is on leave, Studio 2 is looking for a local artist to work and exhibit at the studio. For information call Selena on 0407 290 742.

New GM at Dancenorth

Dancenorth has appointed a new General Manager, Peter Helft. Previously an actor in the United Kingdom for 10 years, Advertising Director of *The Age* newspaper, Melbourne, GM of Staging Connections, Sydney, and CEO of Brite Australia, Peter has had a varied career and now brings a unique set of skills to his new role.



MI Artspace, Magnetic Island

Young Artist Awards

The young artist's awards have been brought forward to 22 April–15 May this year, to coincide with the Xstrata Children's Exhibition *Zookini*. Nominations close 15 April 2011. Download the your nomination form from *Art Gaze* on Facebook.

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery is touring

Metal as Anything

by Ron McBurnie, with it's first exhibiting destination Tablelands Regional Gallery in April.



Ron McBurnie, Washing the dog, etching

MI Artspace

Magnetic Island Artspace is a retail and artist studio space run by a group of 16 Magnetic Island-based artists. Each member of the group contributes to running the business on a monthly roster and works in a variety of mediums outside the space. Located in Bright St, Arcadia (the old bike shop).

Local Artist wins state award

Local artist Gabriel Smith has won the main prize in the Queensland Regional Art Awards for her mixed media work *Urban Footprints*, which takes inspiration from the iconic Castle Hill. The award exhibition will tour regionally this year.

Picnic Bay Art Markets

After last year's encouraging success of the Picnic Bay art market, four will be held this year. The first will be held on Easter Saturday, 23 April. Others include 2 July, 24 Sept, 17 Dec.

The Sweatshop

The Sweatshop, on Flinders East, is a funky gallery and café where you can appreciate an eclectic mix of artwork from local and international artists while enjoying fine coffee, jaffles and a chat! For more info visit www.thesweatshop.com.au

Art Gaze on facebook

Join us on facebook for the latest news and events.



Seen an interesting short film at Flickerfest?
Been to a recent art exhibition?
Participated in a workshop?
Enjoyed a local performance?

Then let us know by sharing your experience with us on Facebook.

Art Gaze News

To submit news, please email info@artgaze.com.au

Renew TOWNSVILLE

In December, the first four Renew Townsville spaces opened in Flinders Mall

What's next for this proactive initiative?

Renew Townsville is a dedicated group of volunteers, led with enthusiasm by Interior Designer Donna Sutherland and JCU Creative Arts Lecturer Mitch Goodwin, who have worked hard to Revitalise the heart of the Ville one space at a time.

In April 2010, after an inspiring visit from Marcus Westbury who spearheaded the Renew Newcastle initiative (and who now leads Renew

'like-minded people pull together with focused enthusiasm'

Australia), the small dedicated Townsville team, including Mark Kennedy and Lindsey Plant, took on the challenge of replicating Newcastle's successful template in the Townsville CBD.

It took seven months to work through the legalities, leases and other challenges, but in early December the Renew team finally handed over keys to spaces on a 30-day rolling lease, to the first set of successful applicants, including artists and designers, Katelyn Aslett, Jamie Thompson, Sarah

Funkhouser, Jo Lankester and Jan Hynes, who then worked night and day to ensure they were open for business before Christmas.

Launching Renew Townsville

The 17 December launch of the first Renew spaces at the western end of the Mall highlighted what can be achieved when like-minded people pull together with focused enthusiasm and determination, with not just one space but four spaces opening in one night.

More than 150 people from across the community came together to see what the new spaces had to offer. After obligatory speeches and a long list of thank-yous, Mitch invited everyone to

'an access point for artistic collaboration'

explore OrganiGallery, Brush & Press Studio, Katelyn Aslett Artisan Couture and the ARgoT Collective.

'The opening was a real turning point. We were excited but also relieved and tired. It had taken a lot of energy from

a lot of people to get to that point. But when we looked around at the other empty spaces, we knew there was more to do—we had only just started', said Mitch.

Cereal Box

On Friday 25 February the latest Renew space, Cereal Box, was born, a multi-arts venue, created by ETC (Emerging Townsville Creatives), a fresh collective of artists and arts workers who have transformed the old Williams shoe store into a space that will showcase the talents of local, young and emerging artists from fields of new and traditional media, installations and performances.

'Cereal box as a venue and an access point for artistic collaboration will

hopefully grow to contribute significantly to the local scene', said Mitch.

'Townsville is a town with an edge. It is unique, difficult and sometimes conflicted—so the young crew who are coming up in this area have a very



Opening night of the first four *Renew Townsville* projects, December 2010, Photographed by Tali Dunnage-Burke



Cereal Box, Renew Townsville project, Photographed by Tali Dunnage-Burke

distinct voice. So it is important that they are heard and supported—we are very confident that Cereal Box will provide another avenue for this', enthused Mitch.

Driven by a strong contingent of JCU new media arts students and with industry mentorship from Elly Murrell, it is hoped that the space will provide a site for experimentation and also a collaborative framework for artists to discuss and develop new work.

'Donna and myself believe that this space—along with the wider aims of the

Renew project—will help to encourage other young emerging artists to gravitate to the CBD and take ownership of what is going on here', said Mitch.

The Renew Townsville project has started to change the face of the western end of Flinders Street. There are a number of other arts organisations all within walking distance, and adding to this can only translate into a more colourful and culturally vital CBD.

GET INVOLVED

Renew Townsville is always looking for emerging artists or cutting-edge collectives with ideas for a space, and landlords with an empty space who would like to see a more vibrant CBD.

To discuss your ideas email Renew at hello.renewtownsville@gmail.com

For more information visit www.renewtownsville.com



RENEW TOWNSVILLE PROJECTS

OrganiGallery

A gallery with an ever-changing display of work from local artists, a space where local artists can come and relax or work, and a retail outlet for sustainably produced food and other items

The Brush & Press Studio

A working studio and gallery space for local artist Jan Hynes and printmaker Jo Lankester. Jo recently took delivery of a printing press and the women plan to begin workshops in the near future

Katelyn Aslett Artisan Couture

A retail space for showcasing Katelyn's unique wearable fashion and other items, as well as a space where she will work and teach others

The ARgoT Collective

An art installation that constantly changes over time, with each member of the group contributing in response to the previous artist by adding or subtracting items from the space

Cereal Box

An unconventional interpretation of a gallery space with a strong focus on young emerging artists hosting events such as exhibitions, performances, workshops and more.

URBAN DK

REVEIWD BY DONNA FOLEY



Installation of *Urban DK* at Pinnacles Gallery, photograph by Louis Dunn

Currently running until 10 April, a microcosm of urban street art will occupy the walls and floors of Pinnacles Gallery, Riverway. Urban DK is the creative output of *The Run Collective*, an agglomeration of the concepts and themes of its members and associates. However, the uninitiated may find it difficult to absorb the feast of images, installations and vestiges of the culture on display without the aptly titled *Recipe For Run*, the exhibition catalogue which documents the melting pot out of which these works have their genesis.

Dominating the whole-of-wall production of the artists involved, *Yasi* is a green-headed *femme fatale* with an emblematic spiral discretely tattooed on one cheek, hovering above and against

'a microcosm of urban street art'

sheets of corrugated iron leading the viewers into the gallery. A pause is clearly visible in the video installation documenting the production of this main

wall, marking the point of interruption by the natural force which likewise disrupted the lives of the greater community. Thus, the cyclone became

'true to a personal style developed over a decade or so'

a spontaneous element in the works of John Bradshaw (JBee), including, for example, a vortex into which a pink elephant may be drawn and a water-affected, dilapidated building which represents the group's common working space referred to as *The Cot*.

John frequently draws on his immediate environment, people and events and is a keen documenter of the

collective's incubation and progress. His photographs are installed inside the central structure within the exhibition space, a structure which is

a reincarnation of *The Cot*, and his recycled paper/cardboard portraits feature on the outer perimeter of the gallery.

Centrally positioned and true to a personal style developed over a decade or so is the lavish pink piece by Doug Arana (Vix). Somewhat an elder within the culture, Doug's work extends into accoutrements, such as his designs on shoes and a painted guitar.

In order to address social and political issues, Clint Searston (Spok) and Shane Keen (Oust) question the role of the media, the system and profiteering banks in a number of their works; for example, titled *Account: ability*, Searston's installation of an 'ADM' directly confronts the viewer. Typically, Keen's work features in the light boxes at the back of *The Cot*. Keen plays a

Local references to trains feature both on the wall pieces and in the installations, with the cargo of a wagon loaded to the hilt with spray cans. These elements—spray cans, trains, text, tags and characterisations—are references to the history and practice of Street Art and feature prominently in the creations of another member of *Run*, Mr Kicks, and an associate of the group, Mr Science. In contrast to the grunge of many of the assemblages and cardboard, beautifully crafted text works in the exhibition also feature on the take-away bags for the catalogue. You have a choice of the screen-printed paper bag or the plastic sealable ‘evidence’ bag. Well, you can always save yourself from having to choose and buy two. I did.



Great things to do at Pinnacles Gallery

Video Editing Basics: 6pm to 9pm 16, 23 and 30 March*

Pysanky Easter Eggs Workshop: 11am to 2pm 19 April*

Make an Easter Basket Workshop: 11am to 2pm 20 April*

Easter Origami Workshop: 11am to 2pm 21 April*

Story Telling through Lino Cut Prints Workshop: 4,11and18 May*

Traditional Weaving Workshop: 21 May*

*bookings required

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 (07) 4773 8871
 pinnacles@townsville.qld.gov.au
 www.townsville.qld.gov.au



TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

ART IS LANGUAGE

Jacqui Stock immerses herself into the work of local artist Natasha Wills during her recent exhibition at Artspaced Inc.



Natasha Wills, *Call Everything Nothing*

Art is a language, communicating the artist's innermost thoughts and feelings but, like any language, it can be a double-edged sword, be it to the point or able to tear apart, depending on how deeply the artist is willing to be exposed.

The art of Natasha Wills needs to be absorbed, to soak into the viewer's psyche as its powerful message is read.

Wills' field is that of Abstract Expressionism and, as with most works in this genre, it is cryptic and brutally honest, creating an atmosphere of reflection and interaction between the artist herself and the public.

The majority of works in her recent exhibition at Artspaced Inc., held in conjunction with *Undergrind* in the Dancenorth Studios in Townsville, are executed using a muted palette of greying blues, pinks and yellows interlaced with strong black line work

and white accents. One work, however, *A Melody for the Distance Between You and Me*, takes a different turn, the palette changing to one of clearer red tones balanced with warm soft browns, organic shapes suggesting body parts and blood stains. One thing is certain: the work is a release, the elements

leading to its inception are offered via Wills' handwritten reflective text, which appears over each of the 38 small panels. They tell a story of pain, growth and ultimate understanding.

This reflective writing is a signature of Wills' work, combining with her calligraphic line and thoughtful colour palettes and serving to accentuate her meaning. It occurs as a connective element throughout her works, bringing



Natasha Wills, *Untitled*

the viewer into her world of 'order among disorder'.

In the works *Untitled 1 & 2* and *Some of Our Dead Skulls for You to Roll Around In*, skulls are seen, some overlapping, others with clear emotional significance, used by the artist as a metaphor for life lived and past pain experienced.

To Rot or Burn features stitched-together meanings, jumbled and layered as if the map of life has somehow been contorted by experience. The palette used is washed out and pale, as if seen under a bright light.

Chaos is represented as a constant companion, to be fought through until order is restored. This is most evident in the works, *I love You Like I love my Broken Teeth*, *Call Everything Nothing* and *A Melody for the Distance Between You and Me*, where the games of life threaten to overwhelm, pathways are distorted or broken, and tears and broken teeth represent life and love at

'Chaos is represented as a constant companion'

its extremes. Executed using strong line work and mark making, the works are a complex reminder of the enormity of life.

Wills' work calls to the viewer, seeking their comprehension, bearing her soul.

To produce this body of work, Wills was mentored by Jeanette Hutchinson through the Starburst Youth Regional Mentoring Program offered by Youth Arts Queensland.

FINDING BURIED LIGHT

A CHAT WITH BERNADETTE BOSCACCI & ROBYN SWEENEY

'The best indicator of change and teacher of creativity is nature'



Bernadette Boscacci, *Hot Burn - Habitat*, 2011, charcoal, pastel, monoprint on paper, 49 x 70cm

As artists who have collaborated and exhibited together for over 11 years, Bernadette and Robyn have a very strong connection and share very similar philosophies about their natural and social environment, which they both include in their art practices.

Their latest collaboration, *Buried Light*, an exhibition at Umbrella Studio (21 January–27 February), reflects this and has been developed over the past year through ongoing discussions about the weather, their environment and their relationships to it.

With Robyn working from her studio in Charters Towers and Bernadette in Townsville, they travelled regularly between their two homes discussing their work, sharing ideas, stories and insights, and exploring the surrounding country.

'Robyn and I are keen observers in different ways and together we can see a bigger picture, explicitly or otherwise. We are compelled to offer our perspectives in our work', said Bernadette.

Creating the works in this exhibition became an introduction to a very

different way of thinking for Robyn, enabling her to express a deeper connection with her environment without being undermined by the didactic, and allowing the viewer to interpret the work.

'It is certainly gratifying for me that the environmental concerns behind my practice have not been "submerged" by my very recent move away from a bit of surrealism to a newly found liberator abstraction', said Robyn.

The environment has had an unexpected impact on this exhibition. During their final preparations for the exhibition launch the pair discovered that frames made specifically for the exhibition had been lost in transit during the Queensland floods. Then, on the eve of Cyclone Yasi, the Umbrella Studio team rallied around to ensure that all works would be safe and secure.

'I've learnt that the best indicator of change and teacher of creativity is nature and I think we must find a balance with, and pay due respect to nature, in all its beauty and its horrors, in fair weather and foul', said Bernadette.



Robyn Sweeney, *Oil on water - wake*, 2010, Acrylics, silver leaf, graphite, shellac on canvas

ARTS PRACTICE THROUGH RESEARCH

Jak Henson interviews Angela Hughes

How did it come about that at the age of 25 you're already working on your doctorate at Griffith University, and what is it all about?

I believed that idea that genius happens in adolescence, so thought I was running out of time. I didn't realise that only related to maths and science! That is a joke, by the way. I really have no idea. It seemed like the next natural progression when it became evident that getting a job was not going to happen! Unfortunately, that is not a joke.

My research is a result of my ongoing fascination with and love for animals. While the welfare of the animal is an important issue within all facets of society, with laws in many countries that ensure they are treated humanely despite their ultimate demise, I noticed a trend within some Contemporary Art

to ignore the rights and suffering of animals and that there was a disturbing lack of research into this area.

Steve Baker in *Killing Animals* (2006) asked the important question: 'Can Contemporary Art productively address the killing of animals?'. Although there has been some academic investigation into the ethics and necessity of exploiting animals in the making of art, this question is yet to be effectively answered. My research addresses a number of questions raised by the issue. I have been investigating whether or not the killing and/or exploitation of animals is necessary for the making of emotive art works that effectively address the

subject of animal rights. It addresses whether or not the physical use of animals adds so much cultural value to the artwork that it outweighs the ethical cost of their killing and exploitation.

Some artists that I have been looking at include Adel Abdessemed, Wim Delvoye, Guillermo Vargas, Nathalia Edenmont, Damien Hirst, Hermann Nitsch, Angela Singer, Thomas Grünfeld, Huang Yong Ping, Eduardo Kac, Andy Feehan, Olly & Suzi, Paola Pivi, Joseph Beuys and Mark Dion. All of these artists have used animals at some stage throughout their practice and although cruelty is not evident in many of the works, the ethics of how the animals are used always needs to be investigated.

Was your doctorate a large step from completing your Honours at James Cook University in 2007?

In some ways it is. Griffith University run their research program quite differently but the basis of research, I believe, will always be the same. It is more demanding and quite a bit more daunting but with the support of the uni and the outer art community it has been quite an easy transition.

How has your practice transformed since your undergraduate studies?

Due to the fact that my Honours show was about 'Confessional Art' it was quite easy to stay somewhat on topic, by being self-centred! Now my work is



Angela Hughes, *Colloquial Bryophytec*



Angela Hughes, *The Narrated Life of Macrati Von Munchausen*

trying to make a difference globally and consider the way people feel about the ones they 'eat and keep'. I need to think a lot harder about each aspect of the work, which can be tiresome. Visually, I think it is quite similar, just, more animals. Also, no printmaking anymore.

Your upcoming exhibition is being held at Umbrella Studio. What is the exhibition about? Is it directly related to your doctorate?

The exhibition investigates a number of person and non-personal animal issues, such as the differences in the way we comprehend the animals we eat and the animals we love, science and religion's effects on the welfare of the animal and the concept of speciesism (the belief that one species is more important than another). It will consist of a number of works that are created through the use of serial (a number of smaller works that make a larger work), using things such as photocopy, collage, drawing, boxes, leaves, bottle caps, jar lids, violin music, found papers and frames. I have used textual accompaniments that incorporate a mixture of humour, personal anecdotes, facts and fictional stories in order to manipulate the viewer into seeing the represented animals as being possibly the most important thing at that particular moment. I hope to create an inoffensive relationship with my viewers that will hopefully urge them to think about everyday animals as something more than pests, pets or food. Yes, it is congruent with my



Angela Hughes, *Nursing a Dead Man*

doctoral research as investigating the recurrent themes and understanding their viewer reception is vital to developing an eventual answer to the questions!

Are you coming up to Townsville to install the exhibition?

Yes, I will be there to install, attend the opening and do a small talk about the work and related research. Unfortunately, I cannot make my trip any longer due to work and study commitments.

Where do you see your art career in the future? Do you see your practice as your main focus or do you intend to continue a research-based career?

Ultimately, I would love to pursue a career in tertiary teaching, so research is probably going to be the chosen field. What this means for my practical work, I'm not sure. I don't much like to make predictions about my future as they rarely eventuate!

Hughes' upcoming exhibition *Pigs and Reindeer and a lot of Wasted Youth*, will be at Umbrella Studio from 15 April–26 May 2011.

Art Guide for MARCH

CURRENT—UNTIL 25 MARCH

Art Exhibition

Inkspiration and Tall Poppies

By Sylvia Hewitt

Townsville Art Society

Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico

47250250

the artist's concerns about the care of the fossilised marine environment in the Bowen Basin's coalfields.

Cassowary food trails and trials

by Colin Giardina

Vault Space

An exhibition comprising the cassowary plaque series that has incorporated materials that reference food trails.

482 Flinders St West, 4772 7109

www.umbrella.org.au/

CURRENT—UNTIL 7 APRIL

Art Exhibition

Ian Smith: On and Off the Road

A Gold Coast City Gallery Touring Exhibition

Cairns-born Ian Smith is a prominent Queensland artist, and this exhibition features works made since 2001.

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr Denham St & Flinders Street
4727 9011

www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/galleries/perctucker/Pages/default.aspx

CURRENT—UNTIL 16 MARCH

Art Exhibition

Conversations with Castle Hill

This latest exhibition by emerging local artist and 2010 Queensland Regional Arts Award Winner Gabriel Smith continues to explore the relationship between people and place with the iconic Castle Hill as her muse

Your Space

4773 8871

Library Foyer, Thuringowa Civic Centre
www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/galleries/pinnacles/Pages/yourspace.aspx

CURRENT—UNTIL 10 APRIL

Major Exhibition

The Promised Land: The Art of Lawrence Daws

A Caloundra Regional Gallery touring exhibition

The Promised Land: The Art of Lawrence Daws is a major touring exhibition that celebrates the life and career of long-time Glasshouse Mountains resident and iconic Australian painter, Lawrence Daws

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr Denham St & Flinders Street
4727 9011

www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/galleries/perctucker/Pages/default.aspx

SATURDAY 5 MARCH

Townsville's Cultural Markets

8:30am–1:00pm

Join us for arts, crafts, gifts, a cold drink and some tucker on the River Deck and enjoy the views of Townsville's Marina and Ross Creek

The Cultural Centre/Reef HQ building
2-68 Flinders St East
4772 7679

CURRENT—UNTIL 10 APRIL

Art Exhibitions

Imbrication: power and politics

by Jan Daly

Main Space

Digital images exploring cultural equity in visual dialogue.

Shell Shock

by Lesley Kane

Access Space

Works on paper and canvas expressing

SUNDAY 6 MARCH

The Sweat Shop Opening
with live acoustic music and art
4pm

Animate Essence, a collection of mixed media works by local artists Louise Middleton and Alaina Sommerfeld.

The Sweat Shop
181 Flinders Street East



Sweat Shop. 181 Flinders Street East

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

Sessions at C2: Australian Jazz

Townsville Civic Theatre

7pm

Performances by Katie Noonan and Vince Jones

4727 9797

Bookings:

www.townsvillcivictheatre.com.au

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

Double Bill: Hill/McCormack & Tass

7pm

After it's Saturday launch, *The Double Bill* will run as a series of Friday night shows at Dancenorth

Recommended for audiences of the age of 15

Dancenorth
Cnr Walker & Stanley Sts, Townsville
4772 2549
www.dancenorth.com.au

TUESDAY 15 MARCH

Exhibition Opening

Raw and Ready, 7pm

By students from high schools, TAFE and JCU.
Exhibiting until 12 April

Studio 2, Flinders St West
www.studio2townsville.org

Art Guide for MARCH / APRIL

SATURDAY 19 MARCH

Exit Through the Giftshop
Street art documentary screening

7pm

Free

Age: 15+

Exit Through the Gift Shop follows an eccentric shop-keeper turned amateur film-maker as he attempts to capture many of the world's most infamous vandals on camera, only to have a British stencil artist named Banksy turn the camcorder back on its owner with wildly unexpected results.

Pinnacles Gallery
Riverway Arts Centre
Thuringowa
4773 8871

FRI / SAT, 18, 19 MARCH +

Outback Players,
Pirates of the Coral Sea Theatre
Restaurant

6.30pm

+ 25, 26 March, 1,2 April

PCYC Wellington St, Aitkenvale
Bookings: 0457 284 800
theoutbackplayers@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH

Sessions at C2: Band of Brothers
Townsville Civic Theatre
7pm

Slava and Leonard Grigoryan
Joseph and James Tawadros

4727 9797

Bookings:
www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au

27 MARCH–22 APRIL

Art Exhibition

Scene to Believe

Eddie Omelaniuk and Carole Howlett
Townsville Art Society
Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico
4725 0250
tasarts@bigpond.com

FRIDAY 1 APRIL

'On the Spot' April Fool's Day Show
Full Throttle Theatre Company
Court House Theatre
4721 5433
www.fullthrottletheatre.com

SATURDAY 2 APRIL

The Creole Choir's Cuban
Townsville Civic Theatre
7.30pm

The choir of ten, five women and five men...

4727 9797

Bookings:
www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au

FRIDAY 15 APRIL

Zookini

Members preview with Jenny Orchard
(Contact PTRG to become a member)
7pm

Zookini is the 2011 Xstrata Annual Children's Exhibition, and centres around the vibrant and charismatic works of renowned ceramicist and illustrator Jenny Orchard.
Exhibition until 10 July

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr Denham St & Flinders Mall
4727 9011
ptrg@townsville.qld.gov.au



Detail of artwork by Jenny Orchard,
courtesy of Perc Tucker Regional Gallery

APRIL

Art Exhibition

Original Paintings and Prints by Sylvia
of her travels into Central Australia and
the Tropical Rainforest.

Sylvia Ditchburn Fine Art Gallery
Shop 7 Metro Quays, 86 Ogden St CBD
4724 3953, www.sylviaditchburn.com

FRIDAY 15 APRIL

Exhibition Openings
Umbrella Studio, 7pm
Exhibiting until 22 May

Pigs and Reindeer and a lot of Wasted Youth

Angela Hughes

Main Space

Mixed media works investigating the
human relationship with animals.



Angela Hughes, [deer] Wamwl'

Necromancing

by Harry Hummerston

Access Space

Harry Hummerston presents wall assemblages which utilise individual elements that play off each other in order to evoke responses that are both contradictory and paradoxical in an attempt to challenge the viewer's customary understanding of everyday experience.

Paradoxymoron

by James Ellis

Vault Space

A Psych art installation of clay sculptures and photographs exploring the nature of disgust.

482 Flinders St West, 4772 7109
www.umbrella.org.au/

Art Guide for **APRIL / MAY**

15 APRIL–11 MAY

Art Exhibition

Equinescence and Essentials

Jennifer Hyatt

Studio 2, Flinders St West
www.studio2townsville.org

SATURDAY 16 APRIL

Exhibition Opening

Pinnacles Gallery

7pm

Murris in Ink is a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island printmakers who live and work in the Townsville region, including artists James Billy, Gail Mabo, Aicey Zaro, Shirley Yumala Collins, Susan Nampitjin Peters, Ian Kaddy and Donna Ives.

The exhibition coincides with Mabo Day on 3 June and exhibits until 12 June

Riverway Arts Centre, Thuringowa
4773 8871

22 APRIL–15 MAY

2011 Townsville Young Artist Awards

Townsville City Council's annual art competition, with ten categories to cater for artists from pre-school to 18 years of age. The awards provide an opportunity for budding young artists to display their talent.

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr Denham St & Flinders Street
4727 9011
www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/galleries/perctucker/Pages/default.aspx

SATURDAY 23 APRIL

Picnic Bay Art Market, Magnetic Island

SUNDAY 24 APRIL

Art Exhibition

Through Windows

Combined exhibition by Group 6
Exhibiting until 20 May

Townsville Art Society
Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico
4725 0250

MAY

Art Exhibition

Snapped,

Sylvia Ditchburn Fine Art Gallery
Shop 7 Metro Quays
86 Ogden St CBD
4724 3953
www.sylviaditchburn.com

TUESDAY 10 MAY

Capture the Flag

Townsville Civic Theatre

7.30pm

The Allies celebrated Germany's surrender on the eighth of May, 1945 and sixty-six years and two days later Townsville audiences have the opportunity to witness the last vestiges of the war.

4727 9797
Bookings:
www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au

13 MAY–1 JUNE

Art Exhibition

Untitled interactive installation

Studio 2, Flinders St West
www.studio2townsville.org

FRIDAY 20 MAY

Exhibition Opening, 7pm

In the Japanese manner: Australian prints 1900 – 1940

A National Gallery of Australia Touring Exhibition
Prints produced in the first half of the twentieth century inspired by *ukiyo-e*, traditional Japanese woodblock prints.

Exhibition until 14 August

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr Denham St & Flinders Mall
4727 9011
www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/galleries/perctucker/Pages/default.aspx

22 MAY–17 JUNE

Art Exhibition

Pets on Parade

Combined exhibition by Kelso Art Group

Townsville Art Society
Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico
4725 0250

THURSDAY 26 MAY

Mark Isaacs Resurgence Band

Townsville Civic Theatre

7pm

Mark Isaacs - Piano
James Muller - Guitar
Matt Keegan - Saxophones
Brett Hirst - Double Bass
Tim Firth - Drums

4727 9797
Bookings:
www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au

FRIDAY 27 MAY

Exhibition opening

Umbrella Studio

7pm

Exhibiting until 3 July

Paper Bird

by Hannah Murray & Jo Lankester
Main Space

An exhibition utilising printmaking, drawing and collage

Institutionalized

by Simon Reid & Luke Stefanos
Access Space & Vault Space

482 Flinders St West, 4772 7109
www.umbrella.org.au/

IF WE MISSED YOUR EVENT

let us know and we will list it on the website / facebook

Email your upcoming winter events to info@artgaze.com.au

The deadline for inclusion in our free winter arts guide is 10 May 2011

AUTUMN WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY 6 MARCH +

DRAWING FOR THE ARTISTICALLY CHALLENGED

Adult beginner workshop
Cost: \$45 per person
1st Sunday of each month

Studio 2, Flinders St West
Selena: 0407 290 742

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

AIRBRUSH YOUR STUFF

10am - 3pm
Cost: \$15
Age: 12+
Develop a design concept and transform your gear with air brushing techniques. Please bring along something to paint... Skateboard, helmet, etc.

Pinnacles Gallery
Riverway Arts Centre
Thuringowa
4773 8871
pinnacles@townsville.qld.gov.au

SUNDAY 13 MARCH +

CLAY SCULPTURE TASTE TEST FOR ADULTS

9.30am-12pm
(3rd Sunday of each month)
Cost: \$45 per person including clay and firing

Studio 2, Flinders St West
Sue: 0418 750 854

WEDNESDAY 16, 23, 30 MARCH

VIDEO EDITING WORKSHOPS

6-9pm over 3 weeks
Cost: \$75 or \$60 student/concession (ID required)
Ages: 16+

Learn the tricks and tips of producing your own films with Anthony Edwards

Pinnacles Gallery
Riverway Arts Centre, Thuringowa
4773 8871
pinnacles@townsville.qld.gov.au

SUNDAY 27 MARCH +

ADULT WATERCOLOUR

9am-12pm
Cost: \$45 per person includes morning tea and materials
Last Sunday of each month

Donna Maloney will be teaching beginner's water colour classes.

Studio 2, Flinders St West
Donna: 0401 671 892

SUNDAY 20 MARCH +

FELT-MAKING with JOY MANLY

Cost: from \$50 for a 3 hour workshops including materials
(One Sunday per month x 5 months)

Studio 2, Flinders St West
Phone: 0418 750 854



Installation of *Urban DK* at Pinnacles Gallery, photograph by Louis Dunn

SUNDAY 27 MARCH

3D NEW & RECYCLED with SANDRA ELTON

9-5pm
Cost: \$130 (materials included)

Townsville Art Society
Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico
4725 0250
0414647709

SAT/SUN 23/24 APRIL

PASTEL PENCIL DRAWING with ROBYNN GERGOS

Cost: \$100

Townsville Art Society
Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico
4725 0250



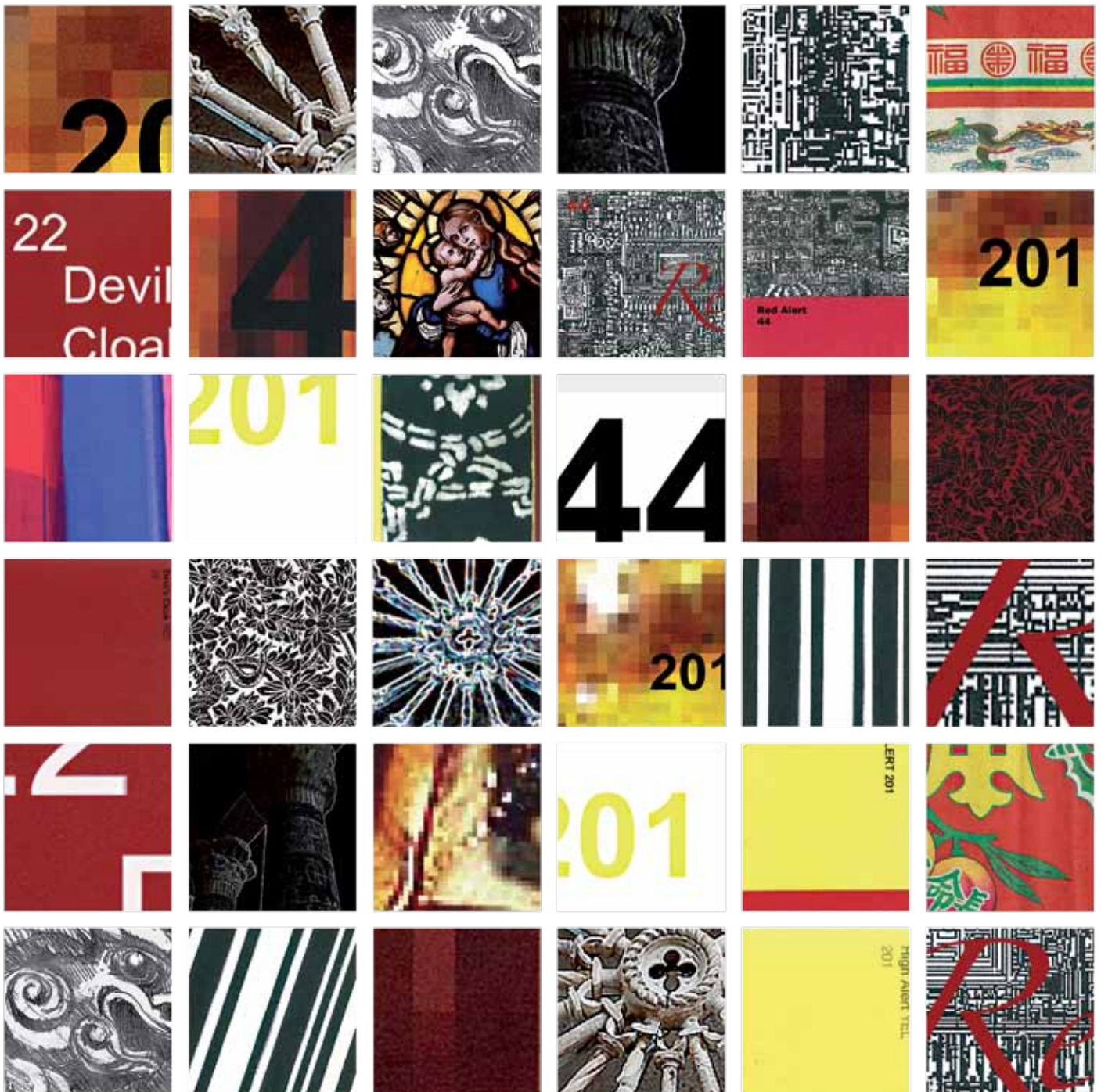
Installation of *Urban DK* at Pinnacles Gallery, photograph by Louis Dunn

IMBRICATION: POWER AND POLITICS

An exhibiton by JAN DALY

Umbrella Studio
4 March–10 April 2011

BY BERNADETTE ASHLEY



Artwork by Jan Daly, Courtesy of Umbrella Studio

'This is problematic for new immigrants with a different perspective, as it doesn't allow equal access to the fine

Daly's empathy extends from '... having lived as a minority myself, in Thailand, up north in Chiang Mai. When I first went there almost forty years ago there were so few white people, and no English spoken at all.'

Daly pulls back from being a critic or crusader, believing change of societal attitude starts with becoming aware of endemic biases. 'We need to be aware of the way we control these things', she warns.

Daly spent five years living full-time there, then another 23 shuffling back and forth between Thailand and

‘[Australian] people are often uncomfortable if they don’t have their own visual culture around them.’

'[Australian] people are often uncomfortable if they don't have their own visual culture around them.' There's passion in her voice as she extrapolates

Australia, before moving back to Victoria. She completed a Masters at Monash, and now lives in Townsville.

Daly's upcoming exhibition at Umbrella Studio fulfils a component of her doctoral studies.

'As my major interest is art, I use cultural iconography to try to explain things visually', she says. Her digital works are, as the title *Imbrication* suggests, an overlapping, or layering of images. The loaded subtitle, *power and politics*, encourages us to look for the subtext contained within. Dr Anne Lord, in her curator's introduction, writes, 'Through Daly's examination of



Artwork by I.N.E Giardina, exhibiting in vault space
until 10 April. Courtesy of Umbrella Studio

Lots of ideas, **but not enough money?**
Funding is available for artistic endeavours

Regional Arts Development Fund
Applications close 25 March 2011
www.townsville.qld.gov.au/services/departments/cip/grants/cultural/index#RADF

THE REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND IS A QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT AND TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT LOCAL ARTS AND CULTURE

Townsville Queensland Government

Ho Sin-Tung discovered in Hong Kong

Townsville local Alex Christopher
experiences art in Hong Kong



Front entrance to Macau Ox Warehouse, photographed by Alex Christopher

Recently I travelled to Hong Kong. It's not something I'd usually do but I followed a Lonely Planet guide around to a few galleries in the sparkling city and my first stop was the most memorable.

On display at the Hanart T Z gallery was a collection of works by a young Hong Kong artist, Ho Sin-Tung, her first solo exhibition.

'It struck me immediately as a very versatile exhibition'

Sin-Tung's works were varied: large-scale drawings mounted on canvas, small-scale drawings arranged in a grid, mixed media, installation, new media and performance. It struck me immediately as a very versatile exhibition and not just versatile in media, there were about seven works or

series in the space. These works were adept, conceptually intellectual and interesting and impressively produced by an artist of just 24 years old.

The first work I saw was one hundred and two small pieces, laid neatly on a canvas like an old sepia-coloured typewriter. The pieces were Polaroid format and size, with text underneath—the soft lead-pencil drawings of things as eclectic as the facets of a diamond,

a descending flying bat and a soldier's portrait. The individual drawings were stylised similarly with decisive detail in some sections and blank-void spaces in others, either with no pencil application or a 'coloured-in' black space. They were both disconcerting and reminiscent in feeling.

The drawings were inspired by the book *Slaughter-House Five* by Kurt Vonnegut, an American science fiction author writing about the philosophical tone that emanated from World War II. Sin-Tung's work held the same lingering melancholic feeling as the thesis statement of the book, *So it Goes*. A kind of conceptual motif for Sin-Tung's body of work.

Another example of Sin-Tung's work, *We Have Concluded The Manner Of Death Is Accidental*, intriguingly featured a body in a bag on a red ambulance stretcher. When you registered properly you noticed the body bag was creatively shaped from torn-up pieces of a book written in Chinese, the translated musings of a Danish philosopher. Above the stretcher on the wall were blotchy printed snap shots of live-to-air news casts revealing the death of our Heath Ledger.

In a related performance piece the artist revisited what she described as a haunted hotel which she had stayed at exactly two years before. Sin-Tung filmed her experience of the second stay, whereas in her first visit, she watched one of Heath Ledger's early films where he played a priest. This re-enactment is documented in the exhibition using a TV and recordings, the hotel invoice and hotel's name card. The epitome of the installation comes with her revelation that the only 'visible dead' she saw that night was Heath Ledger in the film.

Sin-Tung's other works on display included an installation of a 'torn up love letter' made from large Chinese characters of black Perspex all jumbled

'this exhibition was measured and strangely uplifting'

up, filling a waste-paper basket and spilling over the edge onto the floor; a series of sketches of Hong Kong's theatre seating plans with cute subjective titles such *Still too French* and her large-scale drawings with titles including *Not Anymore* and *Repainting: 'The Day I Found Myself Abnormal' with a Bird*.

Despite having such strong angsty overtones dealing with death, the supernatural, growing up, ex-boyfriends and grieving Hollywood stars, this exhibition was measured and strangely uplifting. It was a real joy to see a young artist do so well, making art that is both reminiscent of everyday subcultural experience and captured in a technically and abstractly clever way.

For more Ho Sin-Tung's work visit:
www.hanart.com

For a full version of this article please visit: www.friendartfoe.wordpress.com



Ho Sin Tung, *The Body Bag works* - (On wall on photo): *They Told me You'll Never Come Back*, 2010. (Stretcher): *We have Concluded the Manner of Death is Accidental*, 2010, photographed by Alex Christopher



Ho Sin Tung, *Words Thou Said by Ho Sin-Tung*, photographed by Alex Christopher

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Terri Brabon has come a long way since graduating from JCU, but she has never forgotten her North Queensland roots, returning to Townsville regularly to perform or direct Shakespeare Under the Stars.

After graduating from JCU in 1994, Terri began acting with Tropic Line Theatre Company under the direction of Jean-Pierre Voos.

'Producing an annual Shakespearean production in regional Queensland which involved community actors alongside professional actors was Jean-Pierre's vision', said Terri

In 1992, 'Shakespeare Under The Stars' was born with a production of *Twelfth Night* directed by Jean-Pierre and starring a young Brendan O'Connor. Terri, seventeen at the time, watched that production in awe and landed her own chance to be in 'Shakespeare Under The Stars' three years later in *The Tempest* as a member of the Tropic Line Ensemble.

After moving to Brisbane in 1998, Terri was encouraged by Jean-Pierre to keep returning to Townsville for the

'Theatre shouldn't be read, it has to be experienced'

Shakespeare productions, including co-directing *The Taming of the Shrew* with him, and then directing him in *As You Like It* the following year. Jean-Pierre passed away in 2008 and his company (by then known as Tropic Sun), continued to produce the annual event under the direction of Terri and featuring her partner, actor Brendan O'Connor.

'I learnt a great deal from Jean-Pierre. He inspired and encouraged me to develop my acting skills. He really was my mentor', said Terri.

While her career took her all over the country, working in Brisbane with the Harvest Rain Theatre and then the Australian Shakespeare Company in Melbourne, Terri has continued to return to the town she calls home and this year will mark Terri's 10th 'Shakespeare Under the Stars' and her 6th as director.

'Jean-Pierre was always very proud of what I'd achieved outside of Townsville, often flying down south to see my shows. But it was always something very special to come home and work with him on Shakespeare, performing alongside old friends. They are some of my fondest memories', said Terri.

'very special to come home and work'

In 2010 when Tropic Sun lost government funding, they were unable to continue to produce Shakespeare Under the Stars. Terri and Brendan decided that they had to keep the tradition alive, for the love of Shakespeare and Townsville, and in memory of Jean-Pierre they had to make it work—the show had to go on.

With the support of their families, friends and the wider Townsville community,

Shakespeare Under the Stars was legally incorporated and the work began on planning and securing sponsorship for *Richard III*, which was performed to sell-out audiences in September 2010.

'Brendan and I are certainly part of big team, with an even bigger heart and we are growing every day. It takes a family to put on this circus!', said Terri.



Terri Brabon

This year we are going to see a lot more of Terri and Brendan. They return to Townsville in July to delight locals in the much-anticipated production of *Cosi* by Louis Nowra at the Court Theatre and then again in September with Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in Queens Gardens.

'Local drama and English teachers approached us with the idea of producing some local productions of the texts which are studied in the classroom. Plays which the students have a limited opportunity to see live. Theatre shouldn't be read, it has to be experienced, so we hope to illuminate these great Aussie Plays in the same way we try to bring Shakespeare to life. Not only for students but also for the wider Townsville community', said Terri.

All going well, Terri hopes *Cosi* will be the first production of many in the *Wizard of Oz* program, which will see her team bring more Australian texts to life in Townsville. What else does the future hold for Terri and Brendan?

'Who knows? We love Townsville and the people here, so we'll keep coming home and producing shows until the audience stops coming to see them', said Terri.



Shakespeare Under the Stars, Photographed by Chrissy Maguire

HISTORY OF SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE STARS

2010

RICHARD III

Directed by Terri Brabon
Queens Gardens

2009

HENRY V

Directed by Terri Brabon
Queens Gardens

2008

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

Directed by Terri Brabon
Queens Gardens

2007

OTHELLO

Directed by John de Feu
Queens Gardens
(rain moved the show to The Cowshed
at JCU)

2006

ROMEO AND JULIET

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Queens Gardens

2005

HENRY IV Part 1

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Queens Gardens
(Townsville City Council Production of
the Year)

2004

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Queens Gardens

2003

AS YOU LIKE IT

Directed by Terri Brabon
Panorama House, Castle Hill
(Townsville City Council Production of
the Year)

2002

TAMING OF THE SHREW

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos & Terri
Brabon
Panorama House, Castle Hill

2001

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Kissing Point

2000

TWELFTH NIGHT

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Kissing Point

1997

ROMEO AND JULIET

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Echlin St Quarry

1996

MACBETH

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Echlin St Quarry

1995

THE TEMPEST

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
Echlin St Quarry

1992

TWELFTH NIGHT

Directed by Jean-Pierre Voos
JCU, Vincent Campus Gardens

WEST SIDE STORY



REVIEW BY BRIAN EDMOND



West Side Story, Photograph by Chrissy Maguire

Book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Produced by the Townsville Choral Society at the Townsville Civic Theatre, 28 January 2011.

West Side Story, based upon Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* but set in the poor streets of New York, still resonates today with its themes of ill-

(during the well-danced 'The Dance at the Gym', which effectively transitions from a tame, innocent number into one filled with tension and bravado). Oblivious to the angst, Tony, former leader of the Jets, sees Maria for the first time. They fall in love at first sight. The problem is Maria is the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks and is also promised in marriage to Chino, another Shark.

'felt a bit dated and somewhat vanilla'

fated love, intolerance, youth frustration and gang violence. It is perhaps that we are so desensitised to seeing much more extreme violence on our TVs and in the cinema (let alone the 6 pm news), that the gang interaction and teenage slang felt a bit dated and somewhat vanilla.

That's not saying this was not a good production—because it was—it was just constrained by the era of the 1950s when viewed by a 2011 audience.

The Jets (the local American gang) want the rival Sharks (a Puerto Rican gang) off their turf. A formal challenge is made for a 'rumble' between the gangs

At the 'rumble', despite an agreement for it to be a fist fight only, Riff and Bernardo end up drawing switchblades. As Tony intervenes, Riff is fatally stabbed by Bernardo. Tony responds by killing Bernardo. Anita, Bernardo's girlfriend, initially cannot understand how Maria can love someone like Tony who would kill Maria's brother, but Maria's passionate 'I Have a Love' sees Anita being persuaded to try to warn Tony that Chino has a gun and is looking for him.

Upon arrival at Doc's Drugstore Anita is harassed and taunted by the Jets in a well-staged sequence resulting in Anita being sexually assaulted. Lashing out, she claims Chino has killed Maria. When Tony hears this news he goes

looking for Chino, calling on Chino to kill him as he has nothing left to live for. Just as Tony sees Maria is alive, Chino fatally shoots him. Maria holds Tony in her arms and the futility of hatred and intolerance which has destroyed her love is writ large.

There was a lot to like about this production. Tony (Adam Mullaamphy) and Maria (Cynthia Clarke) were believable and engaging as the doomed lovers. Mullaamphy's 'Maria', and the beautifully rendered 'One Hand, One Heart' by them both were definite highlights. The riveting, lengthy, silence (with its deep grief and pain) after Maria confronts the gang members before they took Tony's body away was sublime.

Riff (Chris Davis) was strong and convincing. Full marks should also go to Chris because he also was responsible for the very effective choreography. Michael Gleeson (Lt Schrank) and Jeff Jameson (Doc) provided a critical counterpoint of, respectively, authority and heart from the 'establishment'/grown-ups.

Bernardo (Robert Street) and Michelle Higgins had a real worldliness and hardness about them which also worked well in contrast to the more innocent love of Tony and Maria. Higgins' gutsy 'A Boy Like That' set up a difficult but very well realised change from hate to understanding Maria's love.

The enthusiastic choruses of the Jets and Sharks worked hard, with 'America' being an eye-catching number and I felt the Jets really came into their own in 'Gee Officer Krupke'.

'the Jets really came into their own in 'Gee Officer Krupke''

Anybody's (Fiona Gillman) was terrific as the tomboy Jet, as was Action (Tyler Chin Dou Foong). Rosalia (Charlie Anderson), Consuela (Kate Tarnawski) and Francisca (Kirra Hone) all excelled in 'I Feel Pretty'. I also really enjoyed Baby John (Mitch Pemmelaar) who brought a great energy and spark to his role.

I was very moved by the beautifully sung 'Somewhere' by Rachel Cairns

and the accompanying ballet, which, I believe (although not credited in the program) was danced by Daniel Lazzaroni and Lynda Tama.

Congratulations must go to the Co-Directors Andrew Higgins and D'Arcy Mullaamphy, together with the Vocal Director (Suellen Johns), for doing a wonderful job in creating an emotional, immersive night of theatre, which was no mean feat when the relative inexperience of many of the cast is considered. Special mention is also

deserved for Orchestral Director (Dale Hosking) and his orchestra, which brought the difficult score to soaring life.

The only sad note is that so many people missed out on seeing the show as half the season had to be cancelled due to Cyclone Yasi. So make sure you book (and attend) early for the next show, *My Fair Lady*, commencing, for a limited season, on 20 July 2011.



Jets Sharks Fight scene, West Side Story, 2010, Photograph by Chrissy Maguire

SHORT STORIES / POETRY

ILLUSION

A SHORT STORY BY LOCAL WRITER
TESS MCCARTHY

I'm here because they're not.
Correction. They're here but rarely
seeing or hearing them I pretend
they're not. Unlike the suburbs. What
an omnipresent force they form there.
Believing they belong. Marching across
carefully clipped lawns, their tails high
as battle flags.

They love to butcher. It's their sinister
passion. Daily our lawn would be
littered with the rags of their carnage,
a pathetic tangled claw, a few scrappy
chewed feathers all that remained. At
night I could hear them slashing and
hacking one another, their piercing wails
skewering my brain as I lay knotted
beneath the quilt.

When Bill was there he dealt with them.
Combing the yard each day he would
whisk any macabre remains away. At
night he would winch himself out of bed
and shoo them off. When he died, I
knew I would have to go.

My apartment is small, tiny as a sugar
cube. I've had to downsize. No room for
sentimentality here. Strangely, the only
thing I've kept of Bill's is his old fishing

esky. When I look at it I see him at his
happiest, on the lake, with his glazed
expectant fisherman's look.

Emaciated Mandy from the adjacent
apartment here has befriended me, a
nana figure lacking in her life.

Last Wednesday she beckoned to me
as I shuffled to my door.

'Dolores, I want to show you something.'

My weak eyes couldn't decipher what
she nursed in her scraggy arms till I was
way too close.

'Meet Callista, isn't she cute?', she
gushed, gazing tenderly down at a
fleecy ginger blob.

To my credit I didn't scream. Mumbling
some excuse about not feeling well, I
fled as quickly as my shaking inefficient
legs would let me.

Five days have passed. With no food
left I can't put off leaving the apartment
any longer. Warily I peer out my front
door, hobble to the lift and out of the

building without seeing a soul. The
same goes on the way back. At my
door, almost safe, I insert the key in
the lock, when something silky swishes
against my ankle. My shopping bag
crashes to the ground. Callista leaps
back but she doesn't leave. She creeps

forward, a mound of evil curiosity,
scanning the spilled goods. I roughly
push my door and plunge through. She
follows. My breathing sounds like a
radio with static. What to do? Frantic, I
call out Bill's name. Then I see it. The
esky propped beside my chair. I pry
the lid off and with half-closed eyes
approach Callista, now sniffing wantonly
around my couch. I place the opened
esky on its side behind her. Bulb-eyed,
she turns around instantly. Maybe the
esky still smells vaguely like bait as
she immediately strides boldly in. Fear
lubricates my joints as I briskly bend
over, upright the esky and seal the lid
shut. She won't last long. There's not
enough air in there.

'Thank you Bill, my sweet, sweet love',
I sigh.

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SELECTED FROM LOCAL WRITERS' GROUPS

The X-Factor

POETRY BY LOCAL WRITER
ANITA BERRY

When star gazing, it's easy to question
whether existence relies on the faith
that all is as it should be,
that the stars will continue to hang in the
sky,
that gravity will be neither too much, nor
too little
to stop the universe tumbling down
upon our heads.
No equation can explain why the portals
between earth and sun
open and close at the precise frequency
they do.

No scientific breakthrough can tell what,
besides light,
passes back and forth, to nourish or
threaten life,

When the sun sinks beyond the horizon
we hold the trust that dawn will herald
its return.

But, if, according to the law of gravity,
what goes up must come down,
what are our thoughts sending upwards
and outwards,
through the gateway of the mind,
and what if they come boomeranging
back:

Will they be blessing or curse in the
unmeasured future?

Comprehension is so small and the
questions so large.
We are simultaneously part of the riddle
and the solution finders.
Is this element of surprise, this *X-Factor*,
part of the answer?
Must we develop other ways of
measuring the unmeasurable?
Or is faith enough to hold all in its
place?

STOCKISTS

Betty Blue
8/95 Denham Street
Townsville QLD 4810
4724 2554

Dancenorth
Cnr Walker & Stanley Sts
4772 2549

eMerge Media Space
School of Creative Arts
James cook University
4781 3142

Full Throttle Theatre Company
Court House Theatre
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Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr Denham St & Flinders Street
4727 9011

Pinnacles Gallery
Riverway Arts Centre
Thuringowa
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Studio 2
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Townsville Art Society
Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico
4725 0250

Sylvia Ditchburn Fine Art Gallery
Shop 7 Metro Quays
86 Ogden St CBD
4724 3953

The Cultural Centre
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Umbrella Studio
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Pigs and Reindeer and a lot of Wasted Youth **Angela Hughes**

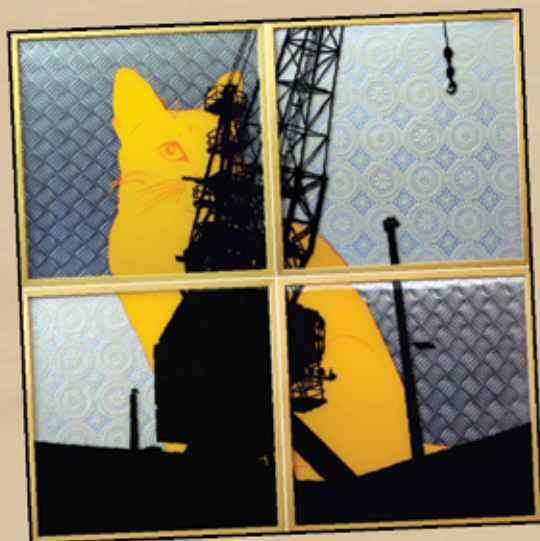
Mixed media works investigating the human relationship with animals.

Necromancing **Harry Hummerston**

Wall assemblages which utilise individual elements that play off each other in order to evoke responses which challenge the viewer's understanding of everyday experience.

Paradoxymoron **James Ellis**

A Psych art installation of clay sculptures and photographs exploring the nature of disgust.



Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts | 482 Flinders Street, Townsville | (07) 4772 7109
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